

***Pterostichus rhaeticus* Heer (Col.: Carabidae) in Kent (London) and Radnorshire**

The addition to our fauna of this species, not externally separable from *P. nigrita* (Payk.), is fully dealt with by Dr M.L. Luff (1990, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **126**: 245-9). He concludes that the two have similar distributions in Britain, but that *P. rhaeticus* tends to be more prevalent in the north; and the experience of my good friend Prof. J.A. Owen, to whom I am indebted for a dissected male of each species, is much the same. To my surprise, of two males from here (Charlton), recently dissected, one proved to be *nigrita* and the other an equally definite *rhaeticus*. Both are from damp ground beside a watercourse. I have not yet had time to investigate further, but thought this result worth a preliminary note.

I also have in my collection a male *P. rhaeticus* from Llandrindod Wells, Radnorshire, taken in 1949 by the late Joseph Cribb.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

Immigrant moths recorded from Sussex and Norfolk in October 1990

On the evening of 16th October Mark Parsons and myself visited Littlehampton on the Sussex coast in the hope of recording immigrant Lepidoptera. Three m.v. lights were set up at dusk near to the sea front and I kept a regular check on the moths arriving. After more than an hour of operation very few moths had been attracted and no scarce species noted. In the meantime, Mark diligently searched ivy blossom and was rewarded by capturing a male Flame Brocade, *Trigonophora flammea* Esper. Additional searches of this nectar source failed to produce further examples of this rare immigrant, but later examination of the lights revealed a second male, at rest, adjacent to one of the traps. Other recent records for *T. flammea* in Sussex include a specimen noted only a few miles away at Walberton, on 20th October 1989 by J.T. Radford (Bretherton & Chalmers-Hunt, *Ent. Rec.* **102**: 215-224). Also observed on ivy blossom at Littlehampton were two individuals of *Mythimna l-album* (Linn.), a species which may now be established as a resident in Sussex.

Later in the night we searched ivy a little further west along the coast at Atherington. This resulted in more immigrant moths being recorded, including two *Palpita unionalis* Hub., one *Mythimna unipuncta* Haw. and one *M. vitellina* Hub., together with some commoner immigrant and resident species. Of additional interest here and still further west near to Pagham Harbour, was the presence of the beetle *Oncomera femorata* (Fab.). This scarcely reported and nocturnal species, which is most often noted at ivy blossom, was present in some numbers at both localities.

Having returned to East Anglia on the 17th I decided to carry out more light trapping, this time at Winterton-on-Sea, on the Norfolk coast. This resulted in the long awaited thrill of seeing a live *Acherontia atropos* Linn. when a single male came to light shortly after dark. The following two